



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

May 4, 2006

# News Release

**ICE's San Antonio office has removed more than 9,500 illegal aliens this year**  
*January, February, March and April prove to be a busy time for ICE officers*

SAN ANTONIO — The end of April marked a near record 9,544 removals for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office here for the first four months of 2006.

More than 1,500 of those deported during this period were criminal aliens, and the remaining were non-criminal status violators. Under the Department of Homeland Security's new Secure Border Initiative (SBI), ICE is able to expedite their removal in an administrative process allowing them to spend significantly less time in the United States, and in detention. Before SBI, the average removal process was 90 days; now it's down to 14 days.

SBI is a 10 month-old program announced by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff during his visit to Texas last summer. This program allows ICE to quickly remove "other than Mexican" (OTM) illegal aliens to their home countries under an "expedited removal" process. Those OTMs removed from the south Texas Region had been arrested along the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas by ICE officers, and the U.S. Border Patrol — part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The top three countries represented in the removals are: Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico.

"The actual removal of these aliens is only a fraction of the hard work that goes into the entire deportation process," said Marc J. Moore, ICE field officer director for Detention and Removal Operations in San Antonio. "SBI is quickly sending a strong message that apprehension, detention and quick deportation is more likely today than a year ago. Anyone contemplating entering the United States illegally should think twice." Moore oversees the south Texas area which includes the cities of: San Antonio, Austin, Harlingen and Laredo.

To effect deportations, ICE uses various modes of transportation, including buses, commercial aircraft and government aircraft. The frequently used government aircraft is run by the U.S. Marshals Service, and is called the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS). On average, the San Antonio field office deports more than 600 illegal aliens each week.

These deportations were executed under the Secure Border Initiative (SBI), a comprehensive multi-year plan by the Department of Homeland Security to secure America's borders and reduce illegal migration. Under SBI, Homeland Security seeks to gain operational control of both the northern and southern borders, while re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are removed from the country quickly and efficiently. SBI also involves strong interior enforcement efforts, including enhanced worksite enforcement investigations and intensified efforts to track down and remove illegal aliens inside this country.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*